

Practitioner's Docket No.: 796_009

PATENT #3
B1
4-17-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Koji IKEDA and Kazuyoshi SHIBATA

Ser. No.: 10/046,331

Art Unit: 2834

Filed: January 14, 2002

Examiner: Not Assigned

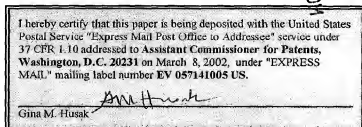
Confirmation No.: 2811

For: PIEZOELECTRIC/ELECTROSTRICTIVE DEVICE AND METHOD OF
PRODUCING THE SAME



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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
AND IDENTIFICATION OF COPENING APPLICATIONS**

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of each of the references listed on Form PTO-1449 are attached.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, U.S. Patent 6,246,552 (Reference AB) is the U.S. counterpart of WO98/19304 (Reference AK).

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

The attention of the Patent Office is drawn to the copending applications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which may contain technical subject matter related to that of the present invention. Copies of each of the applications are attached. This identification is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to the cited applications now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited applications and the art cited therein during examination of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

March 8, 2002

Date



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Form PTO 1449 US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Atty Docket No. 796_009	Serial No. 10/046,331
	Applicant Koji IKEDA and Kazuyoshi SHIBATA	
Filing Date January 14, 2002	Group 2834	



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

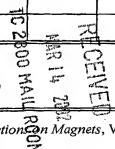
Exemplar Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
	AA	6,198,606 B1	03/06/2001	Boutaghou et al.			03/30/2000
	AB	6,246,552 B1	06/12/2001	Soeno et al.			09/30/1997
	AC	5,745,319	04/28/1998	Takekado et al.			04/27/1995
	AD	5,781,381	07/14/1998	Koganezawa et al.			10/09/1996

U.S. COPENDING PATENT APPLICATIONS

Exemplar Initial		Document Number	Filing Date	Name	Class	Sub Class
	AE	09/661,881	09/14/2000	Takeuchi et al.		
	AF	09/671,669	09/27/2000	Takeuchi et al.		
	AG	09/677,304	09/29/2000	Takeuchi et al.		
	AH	09/676,209	9/29/2000	Takeuchi et al.		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation	Abstract
	AI	10-136665	05/22/1998	JP				
	AJ	63-64640	03/23/1988	JP				
	AK	WO98/19304	09/30/1997	WO				✓



OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages Etc.)

AL	"Piezoelectric Piggy-Back Microactuator for Hard Disk Drive," Soeno et al., <i>IEEE Transactions on Magnets</i> , Vol. 35, No.2, March 1999, pp. 983-987.
AM	"Dual-Stage Actuator System for Magnetic Disk Drives Using a Shear Mode Piezoelectric Microactuator," Koganezawa et al., <i>IEEE Transactions on Magnets</i> , Vol. 35, No.2, March 1999, pp. 988-992.
Examiner _____ Date Considered _____	

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.